

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed August 9, 2005, was received and responded to on November 9, 2005. This communication is a Supplemental Amendment initiated as a result of a telephone interview conducted with Examiners Wollenberger and McGarry on December 8, 2005; a summary of which is being filed concurrently herewith.

Claims 1 through 34 are pending in the Application, and claims 1 through 15 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. Claims 16 through 20 were rejected in the first Office Action on the Merits. Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16 and 18 were amended and new claims 21 through 34 were added in the previous Amendment, filed November 9, 2005. Claims 1, 10, 12, 16 and 18 are currently being amended in this Supplemental Amendment, which addresses the concerns raised by Examiners Wollenberger and McGarry in a telephone interview held December 8, 2005.

Applicants hereby respectfully request reconsideration of the amended Application, and offer the following remarks for consideration by the examiner.

CLAIM AMENDMENTS AND ADDITIONS

Claims 1, 12, 16 and 18 have been amended as shown above, by the addition of the phrase "wherein said universal interfering RNA is an siRNA or shRNA." These amendments are being made in deference to the request of Examiners Wollenberger and McGarry made during the telephone interview conducted on December 8, 2005. Accordingly, it is submitted that these amendments place the pending claims in condition for allowance. Support for these amendments can be found on pages 15 & 16 of the Specification.

Claim 16 has been further amended to clarify that primary RNA interference response is "induced by said universal interfering RNA." Claim 10 is being amended to replace the phrase "biofluorescent peptides" with the originally intended the phrase "fluorescent peptides. Support for these amendments can be found on pages 25, lines 11-15 and 38, line 9, respectively.

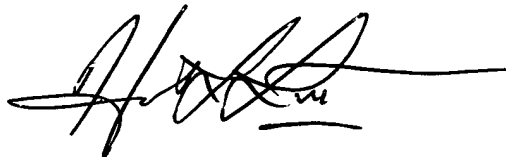
None of these amendments adds new matter to the Application, nor raises new issues that would require further search.

CONCLUSIONS

It is believed that upon entry of the amendments provided above, claims 16 through 34 will be in condition for allowance – an early notice thereof is respectfully solicited. Should the examiner determine that additional issues remain that might be resolved by a telephone conference, he is invited to contact the undersigned via his direct office line at 801-883-3463. Should claims 16 through 34 be found to be in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request the rejoinder of process (i.e., method) claims 1 through 15, in accordance with the provisions described in MPEP § 821.04.

A petition for a one-month extension of time is being filed concurrently with this response. Provisions for the payment of the necessary fee have been made in the petition. Therefore, it is believed that no other extension of time or additional fee is due with this response. If this is incorrect, an extension of time as deemed necessary is hereby requested, and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees or deficiency or credit any over payment to Deposit Account no. 50-1627.

Respectfully submitted,



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